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767.00/6-2653

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AMEMBASSY, ATHENS

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DESP. NO. 1500

Jun 26, 1953

EUR INDEX

BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS RECEIVED JUL 8 1953 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEWED BY [illegible] ACTION: EUR NEA OLI P L I IBS IFI IPS

INFO: RECD JUL 6 1953 OTHER

SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: Greek Attitude Towards Albania and National Committee of Free Albania

767.00

In furtherance of Athens Despatch No. 1407 dated June 5, 1953 two Embassy officers visited the Director of Balkan Affairs of the Greek Foreign Office for specific information regarding the Prizren Committee's invitations for a Pan-Albanian Refugee Congress in Switzerland.

B-1

767.00/6-2653

"Over two months ago two members of the Committee for Albanian Liberation, established in Prizren, Yugoslavia, proceeded to Zurich accompanied by a Yugoslav Under-Secretary. There they set up an office and immediately sent out different individuals for propaganda purposes and for recruiting Albanian refugees in Italy, France, Turkey, Egypt and the U.S.A. They are now preparing a Pan-Albanian Congress and have chosen Switzerland as a neutral country for this purpose. They will invite Albanian refugees at different countries to attend by their representatives as well as those of Albanian colonies abroad. Every representative will set forth his views freely with a view to the election of a provisional Albanian Government abroad."

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confirmed by the Greek authorities that the Congress will be held at Zurich.

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EMB FILES ATHENS

JUL 2 1953

A.M.

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When asked of Ali KLISSURA'S recent visit to Athens, the Director revealed Klissura's visit was more than just a courtesy call as previously reported. Furthermore, it appears that the Foreign Office is losing faith in the Free Albanian Committee and is looking forward in creating a new Albanian front composed of dissident groups to the NCFA.

Klissura while in Greece visited both the Director and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and spoke to the refugees at Lavrion Camp, bringing greetings from King ZOG whom he saw recently in Alexandria.

The Embassy concludes that the Greek Foreign Office had listened with great interest to Klissura's proposals with the possibility of creating a new pro-Greek oriented group which would offset the NCFA.

The Foreign Office was interested in receiving at this time the Embassy's appraisal of the activities of the various Albanian emigree factions with particular reference to the desirability of taking steps to support a new faction such as Klissura's.

Any comments which the Department may wish to transmit to the Foreign Office on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

For the Ambassador:

Norbert L. Anschuetz
First Secretary of Embassy

Copies to: Ankara
Belgrade
Rome
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